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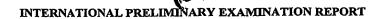


INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Artcle 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D	2 9 MAR 2005
WIPO	PCT

Applicant's or agent's file reference FE231367	SeeNotificationofTransmittalofInternationalPreliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)			
International application No. PCT/KR2003/002440	International filing date(day/mo	* *	Priority date (day/month/y 13 NOVEMBER 2002 (1	•
International Patent Classification (IPC) of IPC7 G06F 17/60	or national classification and IP			
Applicant NCsoft Corporation et al				
amended and are the basis for	according to Article 36. of sheets, including the ANNEXES, i.e., sheets or this report and/or sheets contains a sheet of the sheets of the sheets of the sheet sheets are sheets.	ding this cover sl of the description	neet. on, claims and/or drawings v	which have been
These annexes consist of a total of	e Administrative Instructions un ofsheets.	ider the PC1).		
IV Lack of unity of inverse Lack of unity of u	of opinion with regard to novelty ention t under Article 35(2) with regar ations supporting such statement cited the international application is on the international application	d to novelty, inve	ntive step or industrial appli	cability;
Date of submission of the demand		e of completion o	f this report ARY 2005 (25.02.2005)	
10 JUNE 2004 (10		············		
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/KR Korean Intellectual Property Office 920 Dunsan-dong, Seo-gu, Daejeon 302-701, Republic of Korea Facsimile No. 82-42-472-7140		thorized officer CHOI, Bong Mephone No. 82-4		



International aplication No.

PCT/KR2003/002440

I.	Basis	of the report	
1.	With	regard to the elements of the international application:*	
	\boxtimes	the international application as originally filed	
		the description:	
		pages	, as originally filed , filed with the demand
		pages, filed with the letter of	, med with the demand
		the claims:	
		pages	, as originally filed
		pages, as amended (together with any	statment) under Article 19 , filed with the demand
		pages, filed with the letter of	, med with the demand
	ш	the drawings: pages	, as originally filed
		pages	, filed with the demand
		pages, filed with the letter of	
	لنا	the sequence listing part of the description:	, as originally filed
	-	pages	, filed with the demand
	: .	pages pages	<u> </u>
2:	the The	th regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language	which is .1(b)). ination(under Rules 55.2 and/ lication, the international
5	- 1	The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages the claims, Nos. the drawings, sheets This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, sinc go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box(Rule 70.2(c)).**	
1	in t and	placement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation us his opinion as "originally filed." and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain 170.17).	n amendments (Rules 70.16
	** An	replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item I and annexed	to this report.



Intern. al aplication No.
PCT/KR2003/002440

YES

NO

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applica citations and explanations supporting such statement					
Statement Novelty (N)	Claims Claims	1-14	YES NO		

Inventive step (IS) Claims Claims

Claims

Industrial applicability (IA) Claims 1-14 YES
Claims NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70:7)

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: KR 2002-0038176 A (23 May 2002)

The present invention relates to a method and an apparatus for providing online games by connecting online game servers comprising clients, general game servers and a connection server through a network so that users of different game servers can exchange through the connection server the user information provided by each game server, and that the users can play online games with other users by using their own user characters.

D1 relates to a role-playing game, characterized by providing an Internet user with a character, which can be used on the Internet, based on the basic information of the Internet user, and raising the rank of the user and changing the character according to the mileage accumulated by the user.

The present invention differs from the cited invention of D1 in that the Internet user of the present invention can play games with other Internet users who belong to different servers by using user characters, whereas the Internet users of D1 can do Internet activities, such as playing games, only in the same server by using characters.

Therefore, the subject matter of claims 1-14 is considered to be novel, to involve an inventive step, and to be industrially applicable.